THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI P. V. RANGAYYA NAIDU): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The total cost incurred is Rs. 5,68,720.

(c) There are no specific government guidelines for the Public Sector Enterprises for issuing advertisements in such cases. It was the homage paid by the MTNL to the leader whose vision lead to the creation of MTNL;

Bifurcation of the Office of Director of Accounts Department of posts and Telegraphs, Nagpur

1952. DR. SHRIKANT RAMCHANDRA JICHKAR:

SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SAMBHAJIRAO SHINDE:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the office of the Director of Accounts (Postal) Nagpur under the Department of Posts and Telegraphs is being bifurcated and some of its work is being diverted to Ahmedabad; and

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI P. V. RANGAYYA NAIDU): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The work of Gujarat Postal Circle is also being looked after by the Office of Director of Accounts (Postal), Nagpur, which is also entrusted with the task of maintenance of the circle accounts of Maharashtra. As a consequence, the work of the Director of Accounts (Postal), Nagpur, is unwidely and requires bifurcation in the interest of efficiency. The scheme of departmentalisation of Postal Accounts, which came into effect from 1.4.1976. Envisages setting up of separate Postal Accounts Office for each Postal Circle. In view of these reasons, the accounts work pertaining to Gujarat Postal Circle is being transferred to Ahmedabad from Nagpur.

Inadequate Telephone Staff

1953. DR. NARREDDY THULASI REDDY: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is no corresponding increase in the number of telephone staff in relation to the increase in the number of telephone connections;

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor;

(c) whether this has a negative impact on the efficiency of telephone services; and

(d) if so, what is Government's reaction thereto?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI P. V. RANGAYYA NAIDU): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Due to introduction of new technologies and upgradation of skills, there is no corresponding increase in the number of telephone staff in relation to increase in the number of telephone connections.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Leasing of Equipment by MTNL

1954. MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the MTNL has decided to lease its equipment to meet the targets for telephone in Bombay and Delhi and to clear the waiting list; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI P. V. RANGAYA NAIDU): (a) With a view to provide more

telephone connections, MTNL has decided to obtain part of its equipment requirement on lease.

(b) Details are yet to be finalised.

Waiting List of Telephone Connections in Andhra Pradesh

1955. DR. NARREDDY THULASI REDDY: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the latest number of registered demand, working lines and waiting list of telephone connections in the country, particularly, in Andhra Pradesh;

(b) by when the waiting list is likely to be cleared; and

(c) what is the number of telephone connections added in Andhra Pradesh during the year 1991-92 and what is the target the year 1992-93?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI P. V. RANGAYYA NAIDU): (a) Registered Demand *i.e.* working telephone connections and waiting list as on 30-6-92, in the country are given below:

Working connections . .	5910466
Waiting list	2517226
Working connections in Andhra Pradesh	384132
Waiting list in Andhra Pradesh	140417

(b) The department of telecommunication has formulated Eighth Five Year Plan (1992-97) which envisages:

—to provide telephone connections practically on demand in rural and tribal areas.

—Waiting period for telephone connections not to exceed two years for large telephone systems.

The expansion plans are being drawn accordingly.

(c) The number of telephone connections provided in Andhra Pradesh during 1991-92 are 39651 and the target for 1992-93 is 66000.

Success rate of Local and S.T.D. Calls

1956. SHRI S.K.T. RAMACHANDRAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred Question 816 given in Rajya Sabha on 3rd March 1992 and state the steps being taken by Government to improve call success rate for local, S.T.D. and trunk calls?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI P. V. RANGAYYA NAIDU): (a) The following steps are being taken as part of Mission Better Communication, to improve the call success rate for local, STD and trunk calls;

—Replace life expired and worn out electro-mechanical exchanges (lines).

—Replace Pentaconta trunk Automatic exchanges.

—Introduce electronic maintenance aids.

—Induct optical fibre systems

—Induct digital microwave systems.

—Introduction of timing of local calls in Electronic exchanges with capacity of 30,000 and above lines.

गुजरात में तार सेवा का खराब होना

1957. **श्री राजूभाई ए. परमार :** क्या संचार मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या सरकार को इस बात की जानकारी है कि गुजरात क्षेत्र में तार अपने गन्तव्य पर बहुत विलम्ब से पहुंचते है ;